A 3275-2

8/24/81

trends

ASSOCIATION OF
AMERICAN RAILROADS
OFFICE OF INFORMATION AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS
1920 L STREET, N.W. · WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036 · 202/293-4196

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, August 20, 1981 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended August 15 totaled an estimated 18.2 billion ton-miles, 3.6 percent above the corresponding week a year ago, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first 33 weeks of 1981 was an estimated 575.3 billion ton-miles, 0.3 percent lower than the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended August 15 totaled 437,134 cars, 2.0 percent above 1980, and 1.9 percent higher than the preceding week of this year. Compared with last year, loadings were up 11.4 percent in the East, and 1.3 percent in the South, but down 3.5 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week of 1980, 13 of the 21 commodity groups were down. However, coal loadings showed an increase of 13,570 cars, or 11.6 percent, metallic ores were up 11,048 cars, or 40.4 percent, loadings of coke registered a 66.6 percent increase, and motor vehicles and equipment were up 11.1 percent. Eleven of the 21 groups were up from the preceding week of this year.

Piggyback

The AAR also reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads during the week ended August 8 totaled 32,128 cars, up 4.2 percent from the corresponding week of 1980, and 59,026 trailers and/or containers, up 4.3 percent from last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 32 weeks of the year was 1,034,440 cars, 1.0 percent higher than last year, and 1,868,372 trailers and/or containers, 0.1 percent higher than last year.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 8/15/81:

	Loadings in Week ended August 15, 1981		Change from Corresponding Week 1980			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	27,351	D	4,081	13.0	I	2,342	9.4
Other farm products	3,187	D	939	22.8	D	43	1.3
Metallic ores	38,411	I	11,048	40.4	D	86	0.2
Coal	130,619	I	13,570	11.6	I	2,891	2.3
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	12,530	D	2,345	15.8	D	96	0.8
Nonmetallic minerals	13,240	D	1,961	12.9	D	746	5.3
Grain mill products	14,132	D	2,541	15.2	I	881	6.7
Food and kindred products	15,054	D	3,236	17.7	I	509	3.5
Primary forest products	18,059	D	1,488	7.6	D	407	2.2
Lumber and wood products except furniture	7,180	D	1,756	19.7	D	134	1.8
Pulp, paper and allied products	18,725	D	843	4.3	I	149	0.8
Chemicals and allied products	25,087	I	78	0.3	I	754	3.1
Petroleum products	5,098	D	306	5.7	D	82	1.6
Stone, clay and glass products	13,489	D	2,737	16.9	D	641	4.5
Coke	6,537	I	2,614	66.6	I	467	7.7
Metals and products	14,010	I	1,262	9.9	I	59	0.4
Motor vehicles and equipment	12,693	I	1,271	11.1	I	1,919	17.8
Waste and scrap materials	11,587	I	862	8.0	I	623	5.7
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	9,292	D	1,166	11.1	D	339	3.5
All other carloads	40,662	I	1,296	3.3	I	182	0.5
LCL traffic	191	D	182	48.8	D	4	2.1
Total Cars Loaded	437,134	I	8,420	2.0	I	8,198	1.9
Corresponding week of 1980	428,714						

	1981	1980	% Change	
Total Cars Loaded (33 weeks)	13,720,944	14,312,803	D	4.1
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):				
32 Weeks cumulative	557.1	559.4	D	0.4
Week ended August 15	18.2	17.5	I	3.6
33 Weeks cumulative	575.3	576.9	D	0.3

AARt-082081